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January 25, 2001 LB 313

With that in mind, I think then the Legislature, we got into all of the...the discussion with LB 806, and LB 806 did away with the tier system of acknowledging that it does cost somewhat more usually to educate students when you have fewer numbers. You don't have the economies of scale, but we did away with the tier system, and as part of that whole process, and as an aftermath to LB 806, this Legislature decided to take different approach, rather than do nothing, but to provide some positive incentives for schools to look at themselves and say, would there be advantages for reorganization. There is always a cost to reorganization. There is always a cost. Whether it be the consulting help, whether it be the administrative expenses that have to occur, there always is a cost. Beyond that, the communities all perceive this as a cost to the community, because if reorganization leads to the loss of an attendance center in their particular community, that is a cost. will be some jobs. There will be some business activity, but I think always education should be considered as the primary...as the primary focus in those decisions. This incentive approach allows schools to look at it from what is educationally sound and gives them a temporary firancial cushion to do so. think we would be ... I think if we were to not continue with this and continue with Senator Coordsen's approach, we would be saying we are going to pull the rug out from under the philosophy that this Legislature has and the course that this Legislature has taken on this issue, not just for the last year or two but for many years, and I would hope that we would...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR BROMM: ...I would hope that we wouldn't do that, and I agree with the analysis of Senator Raikes that we hope that this money is used. If it is educationally sound, if it's the right thing to do, we hope that it's done and that the money is used. And I think it would benefit the students, it would benefit us all. So I hope that we would resist this amendment, and I haven't read all of those that follow, but I hope that we can retain the intent and integrity of LB 313.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Bromm. Senator Beutler, on your amendment to LB 313.